



Happy Holidays



from City of Durango Sustainability!

Just over one week until the Big Day. Thoughtful gifts purchased, wrapped with care and placed under a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree? Festive menu catering to the unpredictable tastes, dietary restrictions and ethical convictions of various relatives prepared? Home spruced up and ready to receive loved ones travelling from far and wide to celebrate this special time together?

No? Me neither.

Save time and money while doing good this Holidays by checking out some of these alternative eco-gift and wrapping ideas:



1 An estimated 2.6 BILLION holiday cards are sold each year in the US; that's enough to fill a football field ten stories high! Most of those cards, while thoughtfully written and gratefully received at the time eventually end up in the trash. This year why not try sending e-cards or reuse last year's stash if they're still lying around to create homemade cards with a personal touch.



2 Try to use wrapping paper that's accepted by the City's recycling program – so no plastic coated, metallic or Tyvek packaging materials. And hang on to wrapping paper, boxes, ribbons and other decorations you do receive so you can dig them out again next year. Reuse always trumps recycling.



3 Does your Mom really need ANOTHER candle? It's easy to get sucked in to the festive shopping hype and worry about buying the perfect things for our nearest and dearest (and perhaps some slightly less near or dear). This year as crunch time approaches consider popping downtown to buy local foods, drinks or other locally produced items – you'll be supporting the local economy, saving time AND doing the planet a favor.



4 Shopping for the friend or relative that has everything? Save them the clutter and make a donation to a local or national charity in their name. Many charities will provide gift certificates in return for your donation and have a range of 'gifts' and prices available. Whether supporting local non-profits or giving a goat to Africa – there will be something for everyone.



Did you know, in the days before a ubiquitous soft drinks company turned him red, Santa Claus was commonly depicted wearing green? Back in the day, Father Christmas was concerned less with gift-giving and more with festive feasting, family and good cheer. Channel old-school Santa this year and have

Very Happy Green Hoidays!

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